

CREATION

Vol. 16 No. 4 June 2009



Journal of the CREATION SCIENCE MOVEMENT

Speaking out

How Darwin Day celebrations back-fired on the Darwinists in February

As you will know, 12th February 2009 was the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin. The evolutionary establishment marked the occasion with a special Darwin exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London and a number of radio and television programmes put out by the BBC, with Richard Dawkins, David Attenborough and Andrew Marr exulting in the genius of the great man. There were even several 'Thought for the Day' spots on Radio 4's *Today* programme.

CSM strikes back

What the promoters of *Darwin200* could not have foreseen was the extent to which creationists would be able to jump on their bandwagon. A flurry of activities followed.

On the 6th February, BBC Radio Solent carried an interview with CSM chairman David Rosevear. The following day CSM held a day conference near Southampton, where Richard Broadberry opened the proceedings with a talk entitled 'How the New Testament writers interpret Genesis 1-11'. This was followed by three simultaneous

seminars: 'Archaeological evidence against human evolution' by Vaughan Powell, 'A pictorial tour through the fossil record' with Andrew Sibley and 'The human body – a proof against Darwinian evolution' by GP Stephen Hayes. Before lunch David Rosevear spoke on 'Recent scientific difficulties within Darwinism', quoting problems with evolution theory brought to light by current secular research. In the afternoon Richard Broadberry spoke on 'The early Chinese language – evidence of Biblical origins'. (Richard has co-authored two books on this subject while doing medical work in China.) Concurrently Dr Stephen Hayes addressed the subject of 'Darwin's theory – what was obviously wrong about it in 1859' while Andrew Sibley spoke on 'The history of evolution and deep time'. Following the final lecture by Stephen Hayes on 'Darwin's theory – what science has overturned since 1859' the meeting closed with a question and answer session, followed by worship.

On TV

A team from Catalan TV in Northern Spain attended that day conference and interviewed Dr. Rosevear. Another TV team from Belgium and Switzerland interviewed Ross Rosevear at the Genesis Expo earlier in the day, and late that night Malcolm

Bowden was interviewed on *Sport Talk* by George Galloway, MP.

On 12th February, Darwin's birthday anniversary, BBC Radio Essex phoned David Rosevear at home to ask him to be interviewed live. He was put on air immediately.

Debate at Cambridge

The most dramatic challenge was when Dr. and Mrs Rosevear were invited to Cambridge University for 13th and 14th for their *Darwin200* celebrations. The panel discussion on Evolution and Intelligent Design was chaired by Prof. Michael Akam, FRS (Zoology at Cambridge) while the panel of six comprised two Profs. of Human Evolution (one American, Rob Foley, and one from Cambridge, Prof. Robert Asher), two theistic evolutionists (Prof. Michael Reiss and Revd Angela Tilby, a regular 'Thought for the Day' contributor) and American film maker Dr Randy Olson whose film *A Flock of Dodos* had been screened the previous evening. All these spoke for Evolution, while CSM's Dr David Rosevear spoke for Intelligent Design. There were many questions from a full lecture theatre (300 plus an overflow hall) during two hours. They all seemed to support evolution theory. The fact that David had more to say than the evolutionists went some way towards redressing the imbalance.

National newspaper puts our side

On the 17th February the *Guardian* newspaper carried a six-page article entitled 'Defying Darwin', commencing with a full-page photo of Ross Rosevear in front of CSM's 20ft model dinosaur in the Genesis Expo, as well as a picture of one more of the exhibits. The second page was given over entirely to the interview with Ross, the manager of the Expo. Other British creationists such as Paul Garner and

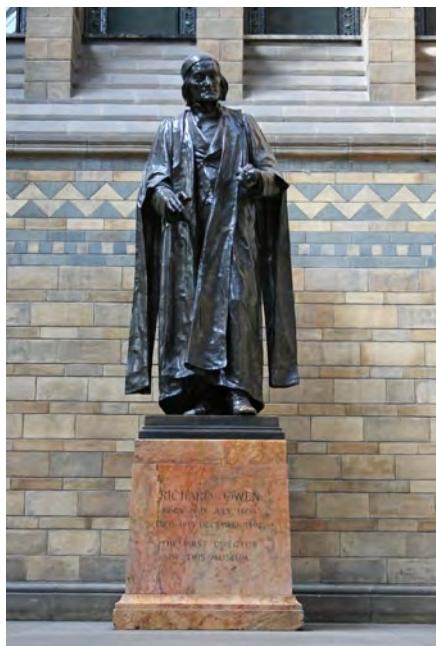
Paul Taylor, John Peet, Randall Hardy and Geoff Chapman were also interviewed for the article, which was surprisingly fair to the creationist point of view. It mentioned eugenics and Nazism, the disgraceful ousting of Michael Reiss from his post as Director of Education at the Royal Society, as well as recent polls that show a slim majority of the British public in favour of teaching creationism and ID. It also referred to a recent issue of *New Scientist* with its cover story entitled 'Darwin was wrong'. The *Guardian* article made it clear that creationists think it is important to state, as the Bible does, that there was no death before Adam disobeyed God, and that Christ died to forgive sin. Greg Haslam, pastor of Westminster Chapel, was quoted as saying that the Lord Jesus clearly believed in the historicity of the early chapters of Genesis. The piece concluded with the biblical quotation that 'as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man' (a whole page was devoted to an artist's impression of Noah's Ark, with the animals going in two-by-two). Eternal damnation or everlasting bliss, readers were warned.

On the 18th February Dr. Rosevear was asked to come on to Radio Dublin for a 5 minute interview that stretched to 25 minutes. On 21st he joined Geoff Chapman of CRT for a meeting at a church in New Milton in Hampshire.

As the evolutionary establishment don't like to give the air of publicity to creationists, the media's response this February to the *Darwin200* near-deification of Charles Darwin must have come as a nasty shock to them. Meetings, newspaper articles, radio and television interviews offered an unprec-

edented opportunity for the public to hear creationists state the truth.

As Psalm 2 puts it: ‘He that sits in the heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall have them in derision.’



Statue of Richard Owen on the main landing of the central hall in the Natural History Museum before it was ignominiously relegated to a minor area elsewhere. Image: CSM.

Richard Owen statue dethroned

“At the end of David Attenborough’s tribute to Darwin last week, he showed the staff of the Natural History Museum reverentially moving the statue of Darwin into pride of place amid the Gothic columns of the Dinosaur Hall, like the altar of a cathedral. It has

replaced the statue of Richard Owen, the great 19th century biologist who not only created the museum and coined the term ‘dinosaur’, but on purely scientific grounds was one of Darwin’s most trenchant critics. Seeing him replaced by Darwin is a warning of what happens when science ceases to be scientific and becomes a substitute religion. The symbolism of the change is more perfect than its perpetrators know.”

Christopher Booker, www.telegraph.co.uk, accessed 08 February 2009

The Breath of God

But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding. Job 32:8, NIV

Have you ever wondered how it is that man is so clever? How it is that mankind is such a creative genius? Why is it that all men, the good and the bad, the born again and the atheist are all capable of such amazing intellectual achievements?

The answer lies in this amazing verse from the book of Job which tells us that the very spirit of man is indeed the breath of the Almighty - and that it is this which gives man his understanding. So all of the human race is benefitting from the creative genius of Almighty God, the Creator of all things. There is nothing creative that man does that does not draw on the ability to understand things that comes from God himself. Every great book, every amazing painting, every intellectual achievement, every technological breakthrough - in every case the source is the genius of God, whether people recognise it or not!

But having said that, isn't it extraordinary that so many people, who have such creative and intellectual ability are, at the same time, so stupid! As the Bible says, it is the fool that says in his heart that there is no God. Their eyes have been so blinded by the god of this world that in their enthusiasm to deny the existence of the Creator they cannot see that without the Creator they couldn't do anything - not even write a book to try and prove that God does not exist!

Right now there are some 800 buses in the UK carrying the slogan "There is probably no God!" And then they say something like - so go on, enjoy yourself! They imply that if you believe in a God you cannot enjoy yourself. What utter nonsense! True joy only finds its source in the Creator - as Nehemiah discovered, the joy of the Lord was his strength. Those who do their own thing and have no fear of God become wise

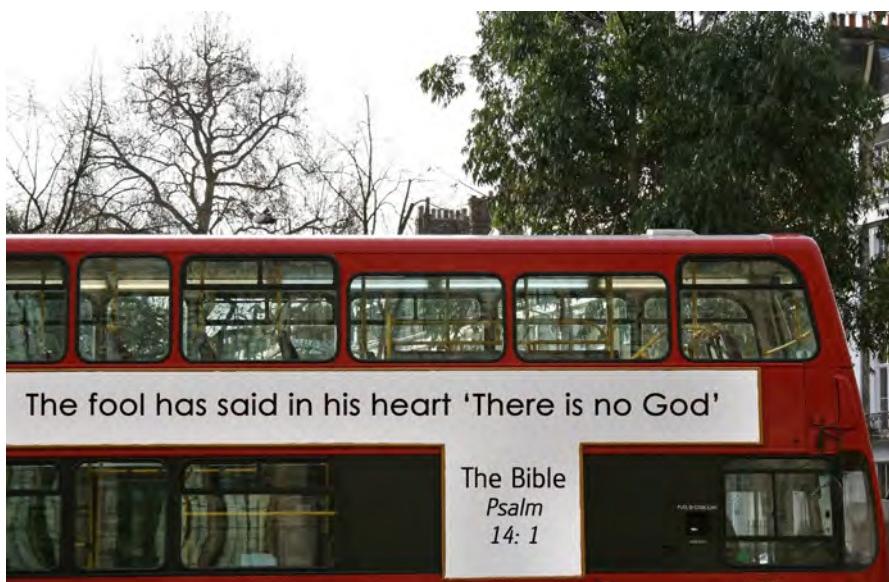
in their own eyes, lose their sense of spiritual reality and demonstrate the foolishness that is expressed by those who don't recognise the amazing truth in our Scripture.

An old hymn says, "Breathe on me breath of God, have done with lesser things". Let us rise up as men and women of God, draw on the understanding He gives to His children and move on from the lesser things to become the dynamic, creative and joyful people that give such pleasure to their Creator.

Peter Horrobin (From Seeds of the Kingdom, www.seedsofthe kingdom.com, 25 January 2009, used with permission.)

Bus counters

In response to the advertising campaign carried out by evolutionists, three different



Composite (layered) image, © R. Cambridge. Large format digital copies of this image for use in evangelism are available to CSM members on request from cambridgeimages@gmail.com

Christian organizations produced their own bus posters earlier this year. The Trinitarian Bible Society mounted a two-week advertising campaign on 100 London buses using the message of Psalm 53: 1, *The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God'*. The Christian Party, led by George Hargreaves, funded adverts on 50 London buses that read, *There definitely is a God; so join the Christian Party and enjoy your life*. Meanwhile the Russian Orthodox Church advertised on 25 buses with the slogan *There is a God, BELIEVE. Don't worry and enjoy your life*. Complaints from some humanists that the adverts by these groups were "offensive" were dismissed.

Pink elephant

On 20th March the BBC News website reported on a pink elephant in the Okavango Delta. The elephant - a young calf - had been spotted in a herd of about 80 elephants by a wildlife photographer, who managed to take a number of photos of it before the herd moved off. The calf is thought to be an albino, an extremely rare phenomenon in African elephants. Thus the extraordinary colour is due to a lack of normal skin pigmentation rather than development of novel pigmentation. Sadly, the calf's chances of long-term survival are very low. In the absence of protective pigmentation, it is likely to develop skin problems and blindness as a result of the strong sunlight of the region.

This unfortunate calf is yet another example of the fact that mutations very frequently represent a loss of genetic information, resulting in a reduction of fitness for survival and hence reproductive success. Mutations **never** result in the development of



The pigmentation in an elephant's skin is an important protection against strong sunlight.
Image: N. Raymond, www.sxc.hu

novel genetic information. Consequently we can say that the richly diverse and complex life of this planet most certainly did not evolve from a single-celled organism.

Rock music

In a number of previous issues of this journal, CSM has reported on the continuing new discoveries about Neanderthals which have collectively forced a gradual retreat of the evolutionists' position. Far from being the brutish, unintelligent half-ape that evolutionary theory demands, it has become increasingly clear that Neanderthals were people, just like you and me. Now this

reluctant admission has been taken a step further.

On 8th February the BBC News website reported on a preview of a remarkable musical work at the National Museum of Wales. It is known that Neanderthals played music (for example, remnants have been found of a flute made of bone). A jazz composer, Simon Thorne, was commissioned to produce a 75-minute composition in an attempt to recreate the kind of music they might have played. The "soundscape" will accompany an exhibition about Neanderthals and later will go on a separate live tour, complete with four singers and stone instruments. A film is also being produced.

The composer is quoted as saying, "Given that Neanderthal's brain was about the same size as ours, and much of our brain is given over to language, then you can assume they probably had language too". CSM is confident this is true. How else would you instruct someone in how to make a musical instrument?

Flights of fancy

Though they have retreated on the issue of Neanderthals, evolutionists are still trying to persuade us of the fanciful notion that birds evolved from dinosaurs. Recently a small fossil previously thought to have been a lizard was re-identified as a tiny North American meat-eating dinosaur. An article on the BBC News website (accessed 16th March 2009) reports on a paper by Drs Philip Currie and Nicholas Longrich, who are both palaeontologists in Canadian universities. The fossil dinosaur, *Hesperonychus*, was the size of a small chicken and is thought to have used its rows of serrated teeth to feed on insects. It is said to be closely related to *Microraptor*, a tiny supposedly feathered dinosaur discovered in China. Not a shred of evidence is offered to show that *Hesperonychus* had any feathers whatsoever, yet it has been effortlessly incorporated into the evolutionary Just So story. The article quotes Dr Currie as saying that based on the size of the hips, and because one of the hip bones was bent, "we

know this dinosaur was a tree-climber... It likely used the long feathers on its limbs to glide or parachute from tree to tree". (See also p. 11 of this issue, "Were dinosaurs all beasts of a feather".)



Quotation

"Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

7 February p.11 Doubts rise for stem cells from hybrids

“Removing the nucleus from an animal egg cell and replacing it with a nucleus from an adult human cell has been proposed as a way to obtain a limitless supply of human ESCs [embryonic stem cells]. The hope is that chemical signals from the egg’s mitochondrial DNA can ‘reprogram’ the nucleus, causing it to revert to an embryonic state and produce ESCs that have the same DNA as the adult donor.”

However, human cells appear to be incompatible with cells of animals.

“Hopes of producing a limitless supply of embryonic stem cells from hybrid human-animal cells face serious challenges. Genes thought to be key to stem cell development appear not to be switched on in the hybrids, suggesting that the controversial idea will be harder to pull off than hoped – and may not work at all. In 2001 Bob Lanza of... Massachusetts, cloned an endangered wild cattle species called the gaur using a cow’s egg. This proved the technology, but whether it can work if the nucleus and egg are from more distantly related species is still in question...”

“In the animal-human hybrids, however, the three genes were silent. The rest of their patterns of gene expression were also very different from those of ordinary human embryos, with the rabbit-human hybrids differing in the expression of 2379 genes and the cow-human hybrid differing in 2950. The hybrids also failed to develop to the crucial blast-

ocyst stage of about 100 cells, which must happen if stem cells are to be obtained.

“These discordant combinations of species are dead on arrival.”

Leviticus 17 speaks of not attempting to produce animal-human hybrid embryos.

7 February p.30 Natural born believers

During hard times such as the 1929 Great Depression the church flourished as folk turned to their Maker for solace. You could say, with the Preacher (Ecc 3:11) that God has put eternity in our hearts. We were made in His image.

But science knows better! **“It turns out that human beings have a natural inclination for religious belief, especially during hard times. Our brains effortlessly conjure up an imaginary world of spirits, gods and monsters, and the more insecure we feel, the harder it is to resist the pull of this supernatural world. It seems that our minds are finely tuned to believe in gods.”**

“The origin of religious belief is something of a mystery, but in recent years scientists have started to make suggestions. One leading idea is that religion is an evolutionary adaptation that makes people more likely to survive ... In this view, shared religious belief helped our ancestors form tightly knit groups that cooperated in hunting, foraging and childcare...”

Others beg to differ: **“A belief in life after death, for example, is hardly compatible with surviving in the here and now and propagating your genes. Moreover, if there are adaptive advantages of religion, they do not explain its origin, but simply how it spread.”**

Evolution is openly linked with atheism. The fool has said in his heart, there is no God. Theistic evolutionists take note!

14 February p.10 Honeybees under attack on all fronts

"The world's honeybees appear to be dying off in horrifying numbers." A number of causes for stress include breeding. **"At the root of the vulnerability to these stresses could be the way breeding has affected the bees' genetic make-up. By being highly selected for calmness and honey production, honeybees have lost other useful characteristics, says Francis Ratnieks of the University of Sussex, UK. In research to be published in the journal *Heredity*, he describes a way to breed 'hygienic' bees that, unlike most commercial bees, clear out infected young and can resist varroa mites"**

In the last issue of *Creation* journal we reported on the problems of genetic loss by inbreeding in pedigree dogs and in commercial chicken. Here again with bees, inbreeding has led to a loss of fitness, and death 'in horrifying numbers'. Where both parent bees have the same mutant genes because of their relatedness, the offspring bees will inherit two copies of the mutant genes, and this will affect their fitness. Neo-Darwinian

evolution is said to be driven by mutations and natural selection. Here again we find that it is rather a recipe for extinction.

21 February p.22 Beyond the double helix

"As genetics becomes ever more complex, we badly need a way of describing what DNA does. 'Blueprint' just won't cut it... nothing humans can make reinvents itself like DNA. Every discovery reveals a new complexity. We now know, for example, that each gene produces not one protein, but an average of 5.7 molecules of various kinds."

21 February p.23 Celebrate evolution as only star children can

"Darwin's theory of evolution and the science of genetics that followed, demonstrate that humans and the rest of life on Earth share not just a common heritage, but virtually everything else. At a molecular level, the distinction between humans and bacteria seems almost superficial. All forms of life on Earth share a common genetic method of replication and energy storage. Yet it is truly remarkable that from so simple a set of molecular building blocks such diversity can arise."

There is nothing simple about the way two chromosome half sets combine to form a complete set in a new organism (genetic replication); nor how the ATP is reversibly formed to provide the energy store required by every form of life. Both of these irreducibly complex mechanisms shout intelligent design, not chance mutations. Naturally, our Creator God would use similar mechanisms to do equivalent jobs throughout His biosphere.

21 February p.24 Letters

A letter from Daniel Dennett, Jerry Coyne, Richard Dawkins and Paul Myers fumes



Varroa mite - a serious pest of bees not fit enough to withstand them. Image: ARS, USDA, in the public domain.

against *New Scientist* for an article showing that Darwin's idea of a tree of life was wrong (see *Creation* Journal for March).

"What on earth were you thinking when you produced a garish cover proclaiming that 'Darwin was wrong' (24 January)?

"First, it's false, and second, it's inflammatory. And as you surely know, many readers will interpret the cover not as being about Darwin, the historical figure, but about evolution." But that is indeed what it was about – Darwin's tree of life, the basis of his hypothesis.

"Of course there's a tree; it's just more of a banyan than an oak at its single-celled-organism base... you knew perfectly well that your cover was handing the creationists a golden opportunity to mislead school boards, students and the general public about the status of evolutionary biology.

"You have made a lot of extra, unpleasant work for the scientists whose work you should be explaining to the general public. We all now have to try to correct all the misapprehensions your cover has engendered."

Oh dear, that really did rattle their cage. They seem to want authoritative dogma, whether correct or not, instead of critical appraisal. Rather like cold war politics.

28 February p.11 Fossilised fish are proof of ancient sex

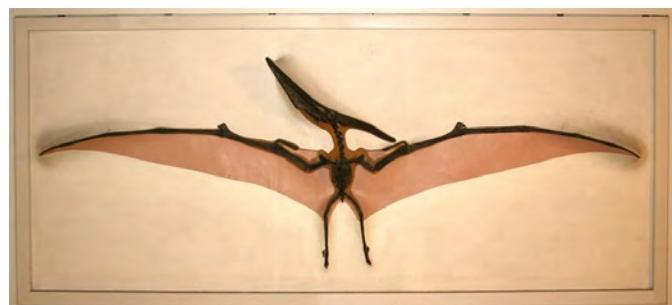
Last year Australian scientists "found an embryo complete with umbilical cord inside a placoderm [shark-like creature] fossil." Other placoderm fossils were found to have a long

bone with a lobe "similar to the erectile claspers of modern-day sharks... Small skeletons inside the specimens had been thought to be the debris of a cannibalistic dinner. But Long's team now thinks that they were growing embryos... 'This raises the question of whether sexual intercourse evolved once, prior to the orders branching off, or many times independently.'

If the products of sexual intercourse were not properly formed within the space of the first generation, the line would not survive. There is a whole lot more to this form of reproduction than claspers and other physical features. The formation of a host of bio-molecules in a strict timetable for sperm, egg and developing embryo has to be precise. Otherwise - no young.

28 February p.14 Giant flying dinos had built-in airbags

"Now we know how pterosaurs could once rule the skies. The biggest animals ever to fly had super-efficient bird-like lungs... How the animals with 10-metre wingspans powered their flight had been a mystery because they were thought to have inflexible ribcages, which would have made their breathing too inefficient for such exertion." Fossils now confirm



A pterosaur (*Pteranodon*) fossil on display in the Natural History Museum, London. Image: CSM

that pterosaurs had a mobile ribcage. “**What’s more, the fossils revealed that the hollow bones contained air sacs linked to the dinosaur’s lungs. As in birds, such sacs would have passed air back and forth through the lungs, extracting oxygen more efficiently than in mammals.**” Birds and flying reptiles shared these design features.

7 March p.7 Big fish, little fish

“**Fish evolve to be smaller when the biggest fish get caught. Researchers feared this change was permanent, but David Conover of New York and his team showed fish can get bigger again when the pressure is off. But full recovery will likely take decades for most commercial species.**”

When nets allow the tiddlers to escape and breed, genes for small fish predominate. But no new genes are formed in the population, so they haven’t evolved. And as with changes in finch beaks, the change is not irreversible.

7 March p.10 Fossil footprints reveal modern walk

Footprints laid down near Lake Turkana in Kenya and dated at 1.5 million years are said to be of human ancestors. However, the foot anatomy and gait are just like modern prints. The prints are sandwiched between layers of volcanic ash from which they were dated. “**We see characteristic human prints, with a clear heel, an imprint on the outside of the foot, and then a really deep impression underneath the ball of the foot... Crucially, they reveal a modern stride in which weight shifts from the heel to the ball of the foot and then to the big toe, providing a platform to push from.**” The modern nature of the prints can be seen in the length of the foot,

prominent arch and the relationship of the big toe to the other, parallel, toes.

If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it’s a duck. Here were men moving through the falling ash of a volcano. Dating methods are notoriously unreliable. The 1.5my date is based on assumptions.

14 March p.10 Soundbites

“**The only place where this alleged climate catastrophe is happening is in the virtual world of computer models.**”

Spokesman for a Republican Senator, in *New York Times*, 8th March.

14 March p.11 Why only minds like ours could think up religion

“**That a complex mind is required for religion may explain why faith is unique to humans. Now brain scans support this idea, revealing that the parts of the brain that process religious belief are those that evolved most recently and give us sophisticated cognition... The researchers scanned the believers’ brains as they answered.**”

But hold on a minute; isn’t there some circular argument here? The parts of the human brain that they say evolved most recently are those parts that differ from ape brains. They are assuming evolution of the brain to confirm evolution of religion. It can equally be reasoned that man has not evolved from the ape and that his brain has unique areas that are active when considering matters of religion. Saying that religion arose as our complex minds evolved gets rid of the reality of a Creator God, thus making evolution necessary!

“**Anthropologist Robin Dunbar of the University of Oxford says the results back his own theory that brain areas enabling the ‘higher orders of intentionality’ shown by humans had to evolve before religion was possible.**” This is that

Dunbar who did research into the origin of human speech by analysing conversations in his university Common Room. He concluded that speech was initiated in humans by women gossiping. Here he goes on to suggest that religious people treat gods as ‘having essentially human mental traits, like characters in a play’. A little more research would have told him that it was not god who was made in the image of man, but conversely, that man was created in the image of God.

“Grafman stresses that the scans don’t shed light on whether or not God exists.” So, if one is a theistic evolutionist, this study allows you to hold on to your comfort zone.

21 March p.8 Soundbites

Gary Goodyear, Canada’s minister for science and technology was asked about his stance on evolution. He replied: “**I’m not going to answer that question. I am a Christian, and I don’t think anybody asking a question about my religion is appropriate.**” So we have friends in high places!

21 March p.11 Were dinosaurs all beasts of a feather?

“**Feathered dinosaurs may have been the rule, not the exception. A stunning new fossil from China reveals primitive filamentary feathers on a dinosaur only distantly related to birds, indicating that all dinosaurs share a feathery ancestry.**

“**While modern flight feathers are elaborately branched, the new fossil’s feathers are hollow single filaments.**” In other words, these are not feathers at all, any more than a goat’s beard is.

This claim seems to suggest that ‘evolution’ had the foresight to know

that dinosaurs would change into birds and so would need to develop feathers with stems, barbs and hooked barbules forming an airtight membrane. So it set about making the genes that gradually changed filaments into feathers.

Back in 1999 Storrs Olson, curator of birds at the Smithsonian, wrote: “**There is not one undisputed example of a dinosaur with feathers. None. The public deserves to know this.**” (*New Scientist*, 29 January 2000 p.12.)

28 March p.11 Hawaiian coral colony is as old as Egypt’s pyramid

“**It turns out that some giant deep-sea corals are more than 4,000 years old, making them about the same age as the pyramids of Egypt.**” Researchers found that radio-carbon from nuclear bomb tests in the 1950s were present in only the top ten micrometres of the coral skeleton. This tiny slice took decades to build up, so the several metres of coral, at depths of 500 metres, were up to 4,000 years old. The black *Leiopathes* coral was carbon dated at 4,265 years old.

So the oldest coral reef in the world dates back to shortly after the Flood.



Coral reef around San Andres Island in the Caribbean. Image: J. Velasques, www.sxc.hu

28 March p.15 ‘Baby butter’ accelerates healing

“An artificial version of the buttery coating that protects and nurtures a fetus’s developing skin could find a use outside the womb, in speeding up wound healing and treating eczema. Natural vernix caseosa contains a mixture of fatty compounds that waterproof the fetus. Crucially, it also contains dead cells called corneocytes, which store large amounts of water and ensure that the fetus does not get hydrated. Vernix may also act as a barrier to infections.”

Dutch scientists mimicked the composition of the vernix and “rubbed this white cream on mice missing a patch of their outer skin. The mice healed three times faster than untreated ones.”

One wonders how we all survived before vernix evolved?

4 April p.3 & 5 Leave education to the experts, not creationists & Setback for schools

In the USA, standards of teaching of science in schools are set by elected boards for each state. Board members need have no science qualifications (though many do have) and don’t have to be fanatical evolutionists! Does the state want democratic decisions on textbooks or does it want the dogmatic insistence on interpreting science through the eyes of evolution? The editorial (p.3) suggests that board members should be vetted before they stand for election. Or maybe they should transfer authority for textbooks to the state Education Agency.

Last week the Texas Board of Education (elected representa-

tives) voted on science standards for the state. “Echoing phrasing often used by supporters of intelligent design and creationism, the standard now calls on students to ‘analyse and evaluate’ scientific explanations for the complexity of cells, the fossil record, global warming and the origin of the universe. The board also voted to remove a statement that the universe is roughly 14 billion years old.” In 2 years time the board must review school textbooks. Texas is a large market and publishers will have to follow the board’s rulings.

4 April p.6 Keep the planet’s heart pumping

It looks as though large forests drive continental weather by generating winds. This would explain how the deep interiors of forested continents thousands of kilometres inland get as much rain as the coastal regions. Water saturated air over the coast causes low pressure that drives wind from off the sea. The rain is deposited further inland and evaporation from the foliage produces more clouds. So the low pressure moves inland and the rains with it.



Tropical rainforest transpires enormous quantities of rainwater.
Image: CSM.

Coastal regions that lack forests, such as west Africa and northern Australia, become progressively drier. The continents with large forests from the coast to the interior, such as the Congo, the Amazon, the Siberian Arctic and Canada's Mackenzie river basin have as much rainfall deep inland as at the sea. The degraded forests of North America are on their way to desertification.

Amazon rainfall is typically recycled six times.

This ‘biotic pump’ is yet another example of how our planet is just right to support life. Scientists have only begun to realise this since 2007.

4 April p.18 Artificial cartilage could outperform the real thing

“The smooth cartilage that covers the ends of long bones provides a low-friction surface that artificial alternatives have so far been unable to rival – until now.

“A team of researchers in Israel has made a surface covered with ‘molecular brushes’ that matches the friction performance of real cartilage.”

These brushes are made from filaments just 60 nanometres long, having a polymer backbone with dozens of small molecular groups sticking out. These are positively charged at one end, negatively at the other. So far, artificial cartilages have been as slick as the natural stuff in the lab, but do not stand up for long against the high pressures found in real joints.

“Both commentators wonder how well the brushes will perform in real-world applications...low friction Teflon was used in early artificial joints, but that wore out more rapidly than had been seen in laboratory experiments.” The article headline may prove to be a little over-confident, but a good second-best to

the Creator’s cartilage would be a welcome improvement to attempts so far. If this is an improvement it will be due to intelligent design by the Israeli team.

4 April p.20 Battle for Turkey’s soul

The Turkish science magazine *Bilim ve Teknik* (Science and Technology) scrapped a 15 page cover story on Darwin marking the recent bicentenary. Although the most secular of Islamic states, it is nevertheless “**a hotbed of creationism**”. Every Turkish newspaper reported the story and the Turkish Academy of Sciences called for the funding agency chief to resign.

Surveys show that “**a quarter of Turks accept evolution – way more than nearly all Muslim countries, though less than any rich, industrialised one...** In 1985, the elected government put creationism into high school biology texts, where it remains... and education minister Hüseyin Çelik has equated Darwinism with atheism and supports intelligent design.”

The Forth Road Bridge

A tongue-in-cheek analogy that may remind you of the writings of a well-known atheist...

Some people actually believe that the Forth Road Bridge was designed. Is there any scientific proof of their theory I want to know? It is true that there are written records but I think they were all made up. I think the metals etc merely rolled down the hills and formed themselves into a bridge. It is true we don't understand everything yet, but we will do one day without having to introduce the superstitious theory that it had something to do with civil engineers. I am not going to believe in the existence of

civil engineers until first I am shown something they actually do. Anyway, are not civil engineers a variety of human and there is no agreement as to the origin of human beings? So saying something is the work of civil engineers explains nothing. What was their origin or have they always existed? Why not say the Forth Road Bridge has always existed and be done with it?

Howard Taylor

Adventures with CSM in Belgium

You will have heard that the 9th European Creationist Congress is taking place at Eastbourne in August. A great opportunity to meet up with fellow creationists from across Europe. The first three European Creationist Congresses were held at Leuven in Belgium, in 1984, '86 and '88, chaired by Dr. David Rosevear. Participants were mainly from Holland, Germany and the UK, with proceedings in English. At one of these David was asked to present a lecture on the possible decrease in the speed of light over time (CDK), a very contentious subject, and many in the audience seemed ready to hotly oppose the idea. As David presented the evidence both for and against, the angry body language subsided and come the end we all discussed this hot potato quite amicably. (Malcolm Bowden wrote Pamphlet 262, showing that historical measurements support 'c decay'.)

Did snow catch us out over there? Yes, on the way back from Dr. Joachim Scheven's Living Fossil Museum (then at Hagen in Germany). Five inches of snow blanketed

the caravan site at Malmedy in the Ardennes, with drifting up to two feet. This was April 1994, and within a few days the spring sunshine set us free. We went on to the Evangelical Theological Faculty at Leuven (venue of those early ECCs) where David did seven days of seminars with the final year students. (We heard that they commented that they had to look up more Scriptures for creation science lectures than for their theological lectures.)

In a subsequent series of meetings that April, arranged by Ferdy Torbevens who heads up the Belgian Creabel group (Ferdy supplied the nest of six dinosaur eggs in the Genesis Expo), we went to Hasselt University. Our arrival was greeted by students wildly excited by their intent to 'demolish these creationists'. There had been an express request 'No Bible talk at all – just science'. Fine – scientific evidence is what CSM majors on. As David gave the lecture (translated into Flemish by Ferdy) everyone fell silent to concentrate. At the finish there was a palpable silence broken by Ferdy asking did anyone have a question. What happened next was awesome. The questions were not centred on the science but on HOW TO TRUST THE LORD JESUS AS SAVIOUR. This had not been touched on at all during the lecture. We were there and we believe that the Lord Himself drew near during that uncanny stillness between the talk and the questions. Normality broke through after that. An ear-splitting announcement in Flemish stated that big iron gates would descend from the ceiling in 10 minutes time and shut in anyone left there for the night. A bedlam of packing of literature etc. followed, and very soon we found ourselves in the car park, the right side of those alarming descending gates. There, small groups continued to discuss the way to know the Saviour,

from the Scriptures. Many took copies of John's Gospel. Quite a night! Never, oh never to be forgotten!

Did anything else worth relating happen in Belgium? Yes, when Ferdy arranged for a lecture in Mechelen in July 1995. We got there to discover that David must give the lecture to a group of forty young evangelists on one of the longboats gently rocking in the waterway lapping beside us: not the boat nearest the land but the third boat out. We gingerly picked our way across boards and over sides trying to keep our balance, and a two-hour lecture was given to the audience waiting in the hold. Afterwards they went off into town in small groups to do street evangelism with sketch boards.

Just to set the record straight, no CSM funds are dipped into to finance CSM trips by David and Joan.

To be continued...

JR

New DVDs

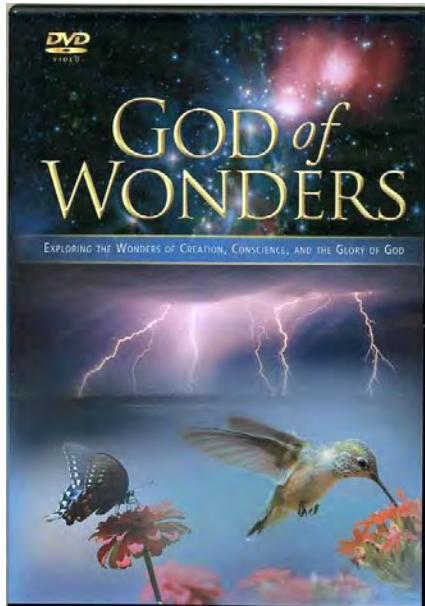
The Case for Creation

These 3 DVDs provide over 5.5 hours dealing with the main issues of Creation, beautifully illustrated. They were edited from broadcasts on Genesis TV, and feature Dr. Vij Sodera, Dr. David Rosevear, Paul Garner & Philip Bell. Widescreen format, all regions.

£19-95, P&P 0.50p

God of Wonders

From the vastness of the universe to the tiny seed, the soaring bird to the information-packed DNA molecule, God's eternal



power and Godhead are clearly seen in the things that He has made. His power and wisdom, majesty and care are seen in the transformation of the butterfly, the symmetry of snow crystals and the many other features of creation highlighted in this visually stunning presentation.

Price £12-95. P&P 0.50p

Free CDs Offer

Cambridge University have kindly released the CDs of the Darwin200 Panel Discussion on Evolution and Intelligent Design held on 14th February 2009. It features five leading evolutionists and CSM chairman Dr. David Rosevear, and runs on two CDs for 90 minutes. The discussion, before an audience of hundreds, was chaired by Michael Akam, FRS, Zoology Professor at Cambridge (see page 2). CSM offers the

CDs free for a donation of £2.00 to cover production costs, postage and packing.

Meetings in prospect

Monday to Friday, 3rd to 7th August at Elim Family Centre, Eastbourne, Sussex, 9th European Creationist Congress, cost £110 plus accommodation in B&Bs, contact 01323 732788.

Saturday 19th September

Pilgrims Hall, Ongar Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, Essex, contact 01277 372206.

Several other meetings are in the process of being arranged, but at the time of going to press dates were not finalised. Enquiries are welcome by CSM members to the CSM office.

Letters

"On Mull there is a fossil tree known as McCulloch's tree. It is fairly tall and was engulfed in a basalt lava flow. I always think it is fairly good proof of how sudden these flows are, and even though there appear to be several flows of lava they must have all been part of the same eruption or the tree could not have been fossilised." DD

Quotations

"There is one thing even more vital to science than intelligent methods; and that is, the sincere desire to find out the truth, whatever it may be."

Charles Pierce

"I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has. I think I spoke to you before about this age as one of the most credulous in history, and I would include evolution as an example."

Malcolm Muggeridge

Articles in the Journal are generally by the editor, R. Cambridge, unless otherwise stated. Articles, letters, notes and other contributions from new writers are warmly welcome.

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